

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An ink jet printer comprising:

an image forming section for forming an image by ejecting a pigment ink toward a recording medium in which a surficial layer includes thermoplastic fine particles, in a case;

5 a fixing member for fixing the image by heating and pressurizing the recording medium on which the image is formed by the image forming section;

10 a drying member for drying the ink used ~~for forming~~ to form the image before the image is fixed to the recording medium by the fixing member;

a temperature detecting member for detecting a temperature in the case;

a humidity detecting member for detecting a humidity in the case; and

15 a drying member control section for controlling an operation of the drying member in accordance with the temperature detected by the temperature detecting member and the humidity detected by the humidity detecting member.

2. (Original) The ink jet printer of claim 1, further comprising:

a temperature judging section for judging whether the temperature detected by the temperature detecting member is not less than a first predetermined value; and

a humidity judging section for judging whether the humidity detected by the humidity detecting member is not less than a second predetermined value;

wherein the drying member control section operates the drying member when the temperature judging section judges that the temperature detected by the temperature detecting member is not less than the first predetermined value and the humidity judging section judges that the humidity detected by the humidity detecting member is not less than the second predetermined value.

3. (Currently Amended) The ink jet printer of claim 2, wherein the drying member comprises an air blowing member for blowing air to the recording medium, and a heating member for heating the recording medium; and

wherein the drying member control section controls at least one of air ~~blow~~ blowing carried out by the air blowing member and heating carried out by the heating member.

4. (Currently Amended) The ink jet printer of claim 1, further comprising:

a vapor volume calculating section for calculating a vapor volume per unit volume of air in the case in accordance with the temperature detected by the temperature detecting member and the humidity detected by the humidity detecting member; and

a vapor volume judging section for judging whether the vapor volume calculated by the vapor volume calculating section is not less than a ~~third~~ predetermined value;

wherein the drying member control section operates the drying member when the vapor volume judging section judges that the vapor volume calculated by the vapor volume calculating section is not less than the ~~third~~ predetermined value.

5. (Currently Amended) The ink jet printer of claim 4, wherein the drying member comprises an air blowing member for blowing air to the recording medium, and a heating member for heating the recording medium; and

wherein the drying member control section controls at least one of air ~~blow~~ blowing carried out by the air blowing member and heating carried out by the heating member.

6. (Original) The ink jet printer of claim 1, further comprising:

a heating control section for controlling heating of the recording medium, which is carried out by the fixing member;

5            wherein the heating control section controls the heating  
carried out by the fixing member in accordance with an operation  
condition of the drying member controlled by the drying member  
control section.

7. (Currently Amended) The ink jet printer of claim 6,  
wherein the drying member comprises a heating member for heating  
the recording medium; [[,]]

5            wherein the drying member control section controls heating  
carried out by the heating member; and

wherein the heating control section controls the heating  
carried out by the fixing member in accordance with a heating  
condition of the heating member controlled by the drying member  
control section.

8. (Currently Amended) The ink jet printer of claim 1,  
further comprising:

5            an ink volume calculating section for calculating volume of  
the ink ejected to a predetermined unit area of the recording  
medium when the image is formed by the image forming section; and

            an ink volume judging section for judging whether the volume  
of the ink, which is calculated by the ink volume calculating  
section, is not less than a ~~fourth~~ predetermined value;

10 wherein the drying member control section operates the  
drying member when it is judged by the ink volume judging section  
that the volume of the ink is not less than the ~~fourth~~  
predetermined value.

9. (Original) The ink jet printer of claim 1, wherein the  
drying member dries the ink of the image formed on the recording  
medium so that the image has a C value of not less than 80 by  
fixing the image with the fixing member.

Claims 10-16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) An image recording method using an  
ink jet printer, comprising ~~steps of~~:

5 forming an image by ejecting a pigment ink toward a  
recording medium in which a surficial layer includes  
thermoplastic fine particles;

fixing the image to the recording medium by heating and  
pressurizing the recording medium; and

10 adjusting an amount of dryness of the ink used for forming  
the image after the forming step and before the fixing step, in  
accordance with a temperature and a humidity in the ink jet  
printer.

Claims 18 and 19 (Canceled).

20. (New) An ink jet printer comprising:

an image forming section for forming an image by ejecting a pigment ink toward a recording medium, in a case;

5 a drying member for drying the ink used to form the image, before the image is fixed to the recording medium;

a temperature detecting member for detecting a temperature in the case;

a humidity detecting member for detecting a humidity in the case; and

10 a drying member control section for controlling an operation of the drying member in accordance with the temperature detected by the temperature detecting member and the humidity detected by the humidity detecting member.

21. (New) The ink jet printer of claim 20, further comprising:

5 a vapor volume calculating section for calculating a vapor volume per unit volume of air in the case in accordance with the temperature detected by the temperature detecting member and the humidity detected by the humidity detecting member; and

a vapor volume judging section for judging whether the vapor volume calculated by the vapor volume calculating section is not less than a predetermined value;

10        wherein the drying member control section operates the drying member when the vapor volume judging section judges that the vapor volume calculated by the vapor volume calculating section is not less than the predetermined value.

22. (New) The ink jet printer of Claim 20, further comprising a fixing member for fixing the image by heating and pressurizing the recording medium on which the image is formed by the image forming section.